



CONFIDENTIAL

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

BURMA

Major General KYAW HTIN

January 1977

(U) NAME: Major General KYAW HTIN, Burmese Army.

(U) POSITION: Chief of Staff Burma Defense Services, and concurrently, Minister of Defense, since 6 March 1976.

(C/NOFORN) SIGNIFICANCE: General Kyaw Htin holds the military position equivalent to the US Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Serving in the professional shadow of the charismatic General Tin Do, Kyaw Htin is striving to gain the confidence of Ne Win, a confidence his predecessor openly enjoyed.



(U) 1976

(C) POLITICS: While Kyaw Htin is not noticeably pro-US in his outlook, he did enjoy his training at the US Army C&GSC. He is loyal to the Burmese Government, and especially to Ne Win. Kyaw Htin was one of the earliest members of the Burma Socialist Program Party. He has traveled in the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic.

(U) CAREER: Kyaw Htin began his military career in 1942 as an enlisted member of the Japanese-sponsored Burma Independence Army. He was commissioned a 2d Lt in 1948, and subsequently assigned as a Platoon Commander of the 4th Burma Rifles under the command of Ne Win. Throughout his early career he served in various infantry assignments. During 1962-63, Kyaw Htin was a student at the US Army Command and General Staff College. In 1968, he was appointed Acting Commander, 99th Division. He succeeded to permanent command the following year and, in July 1969, assumed command of the Rangoon Command. In 1974, Kyaw Htin was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Vice Chief of Staff, Army. In March 1975, he was additionally assigned the position of Deputy Defense Minister.

(C) Personal Data: Kyaw Htin was born 6 June 1924. His wife's name is Khin Win Myint, and they have seven children. He is a quiet, calm person, and is not as well educated as some of contemporaries. He speaks English fluently.

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Prepared by:

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